

December 20 2016

Hello WIB members!

As we move into 2017, I am so pleased to announce next year's leadership team. I'd like to congratulate [Cassidy Cantin](#) as our next President-Elect, who will step into place as [Dawn Hocevar](#) becomes the National President. Cassidy comes to us from both the Southern California and San Francisco chapters, and most recently served as the National Programs Co-Chair, and the Co-Chair of the Special Events Committee. We have already witnessed what Cassidy's energy level and drive can help her to accomplish, and I am looking forward to a busy year next year!

I'd also like to announce that we have created a new position on the executive team, National Marketing Director, a role that will be filled by [Stacie Byars](#). Due to the increased exposure WIB has experienced last year, leading to more sponsors, more events, and more press releases, this is a role that is needed more than ever. Stacie's experience in this area will help us navigate the many challenges of effective communication both internally and externally.

As we know, 2016 has been a banner year for WIB. We started by [ringing the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange](#), an event that brought attention to our organization as a non-profit making an impact on the industry. [Women's History Month](#) events followed with every chapter across the country participating. The BIO International Convention was [jam-packed with panels, networking, interviews, and meet-ups](#). Our [Boardroom Ready program](#) launched this year, showcasing our commitment to helping create real change in the industry, and capturing the attention of our executive level members and new sponsors and partners. As the Philadelphia chapter announced its presence with their [launch event in November](#), we are all reminded that the strength of our organization lies with our [13 chapters](#), and the work that they do every day and month to bring quality programs, events, and a valuable network to their local communities.

At National, our operations continued to keep pace with our activities, as we welcomed new staff member Kelly Williams and new board member [Theresa McNeely](#). Of course I have to once again thank all of our staff members, [Jamie Strachota](#), [Shannon Lachance](#), [Ted Savides](#), Kelly Williams, [Kathy Legako](#) and [Sandy Poenitsch](#). I have truly enjoyed working with such an amazingly dedicated team, who seem to make things happen no matter the deadline, and always with a positive attitude. I am just as thankful for our national committee leaders, who spend their time organizing new initiatives, guiding the chapters, chasing down new sponsors and answering questions. I encourage all of you to thank them for their dedication as well. I also have to thank the executive team and our board members. Working closely with Jamie, Dawn, Dimitra, Stacie, and Debra as well as the [WIB Board of Directors](#) has been educational, fun, sad, hysterical, and so rewarding in ways that I could never have predicted.

Last but not least I'd like to thank all of you, our members and volunteers, who bring this organization to life. The connections I've made at the various chapters across the country have been invaluable. Knowing that we are all working together to build something that will create value, and also have a lasting impact on our industry, whether that impact comes from new programs, a stronger network, or a sense of belonging, has been an experience I hope you are all sharing with me.

I am so proud to have been a part of WIB these past few years. I know that next year, under Dawn's leadership, we will all continue to have an impact during this amazing time of growth in our industry,

which includes a renewed attention to diversity. Thank you so much for this opportunity and talk to you soon!

Kristi Sarno
President Women In Bio